

very full and careful revision, while many practical suggestions have been added, and a record given of Dr. Fuller's experience as to the action of remedies which have been recently introduced. He reiterates, after further trial of the method of treatment proposed by him, the confidence he had before expressed as to its efficacy. He has verified by enlarged experience its power to subdue the pain and inflammation of rheumatism within a few days, and if vigorously carried out, to protect completely the heart from mischief.

In respect to the nature of rheumatic gout and its entire independence of both gout and rheumatism, the views advanced originally by our author have received confirmation from the published researches of Adams, Garrod, and others. Dr. Fuller assures us that extended observation has led him to believe that when properly managed this disease is one far less obstinate and intractable than it has seemed to be under the ordinary plan of treatment.

As to the nature of chronic rheumatism, Dr. Fuller believes that much still remains to be ascertained. He is convinced that many maladies are included under that comprehensive term "which have nothing in common more than have smallpox and chickenpox." He has endeavoured as much as possible to separate the different varieties of disease included under the name of chronic rheumatism, and to indicate the treatment best adapted to the removal of each.

Dr. Fuller gives the result of his experience of the very favourable effects derived from injections of morphia into the cellular tissue at the vicinity of the local suffering. He also specifies the conditions under which galvanism, electricity, and other remedies prove useful. The histories of a few cases are appended illustrative of the treatment recommended.

The entire volume is deserving of a careful study; every page of it is replete with instructive matter.

D. F. C.

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ART. XXIII.—*Handbook of Uterine Therapeutics.* By EDWARD JOHN TILT, M. D., etc. etc. 8vo. pp. 280. WILLIAM WOOD & Co. New York, 1854.

THE present work is, properly speaking, a sequel to the author's treatise on "uterine and ovarian inflammation, and diseases of menstruation," which has already passed through several editions. It is not to be viewed simply as a reproduction of what had been already said on uterine therapeutics, but as embodying the results of twenty-five years of the author's practice. Its main object is "to determine the real value of those various modes of treating inflammatory affections of the womb that have been more or less exclusively advocated by eminent practitioners during the last fifty years."

Although we do not much admire the arrangement of the present handbook, we admit, nevertheless, that it furnishes an admirable guide to uterine therapeutics. The practical comment it presents on the leading plans that have been proposed for the removal of the several womb complaints cannot fail to lead, whoever will give it an attentive study, to a correct judgment as to their relative value under specific circumstances. The very repetition to which the plan adopted by Dr. Tilt gives rise, is adapted to impress upon the student a knowledge of the morbid conditions of the uterine organs under the different aspects they present in practice.

It would be scarcely possible to furnish an analysis of the several chapters of the work. Even a notice of the author's solution of the more important questions embraced in it would swell our notice far beyond the limits to which we are necessarily limited.

Dr. Tilt resolves all the diseases of the uterus into the inflammatory and the nervous. The correct diagnosis of these two morbid conditions of the organ and its appendages is of no little importance, not only in reference to treatment, but also to prognosis. When found to be simply nervous, we feel, for the most part, reassured as to their result, whereas we know, as the author remarks, "that although uterine inflammation rarely leads to a fatal termination, chronic ute-

rine inflammation is often an ever lapsing morbid condition, out of which arise diseases of menstruation, diseased and ulcerated mucous membranes, hypertrophy, sterility, and displacement of the womb."

The chapter on uterine regimen and dietetics is particularly interesting and instructive; especially the portions which treat of rest and exercise, and of external and local applications, as poultices, liniments, vaginal injections and irrigations, enemata, suppositories, baths, etc. Upon all these particulars there is much neglect and no little misunderstanding, if not actual ignorance, in the profession, which needs correction.

There is much good sense in the author's remarks on caustics as a remedy in uterine diseases. His comments on the employment and range of utility of nitrate of silver, of caustic potash, and of the actual canterbury, with the dangers attendant upon their employment respectively, will be read with interest and profit.

The chapter on the direct antiphlogistic treatment of uterine inflammations, especially so far as it relates to local depletion, by means of leeches, scarification, etc., contains a series of well-timed practical teachings, which neither inculcate the use of blood-letting, as equally proper and necessary, in every case of inflammation, as taught by former therapeutists, nor prohibits its use under all circumstances, whether inflammation be present or not, as is too much the case at the present day.

In the chapter on "Uterine Orthopædics," Dr. Tilt presents his views in respect to uterine displacements, their diagnosis and treatment.

"The displacement theory," he remarks, "is founded on a most fallacious assumption, for, I maintain with Lisfranc, P. Dubois, Depaul, Gosselin, Bennet, Bernutz, and Goupil, that with the exception of prolapsus uteri, uterine displacements have no proper symptoms, and that the pain and other symptoms which accompany them are to be explained by congestion or inflammation of the womb, of its mucous lining, or of its serous envelope. It is by neglecting antecedents so important as cellulitis and peritonitis, or by undervaluing their agency, that the importance of flexions and versions of the womb has been exaggerated, whereas the womb has been disposed so as to admit of being twisted and turned with perfect impunity so long as it is not diseased, and flooding is often the first indication that the womb has been long subjected to extensive displacement by fibrous or ovarian tumours."

We call particular attention to the author's explanation of the causes of uterine displacements, especially of prolapsus and procidentia. The whole subject is very ably treated, and we feel convinced that the views advanced by him in respect to their importance, the phenomena to which they give rise, and the treatment, will be confirmed by cautious clinical observations.

His remarks on the value and mode of action of bandages and pessaries in cases of uterine displacement are ingenious, and, we believe, to a great extent, if not entirely, correct.

In respect to uterine flexions, to which has recently been by many assigned a most important position in the etiology of a long list of female sufferings, the opinion of Dr. Tilt is, that they rarely require any treatment, for, although they diminish the chances of conception, they seldom interfere with menstruation, particularly in cases of retroflexion. Antelexion may, he admits, be so complete as to prevent the escape from the cavity of the womb of the menstrual blood; in such cases it will be justifiable to seek to rectify the bend in the womb, so as to allow it to empty itself of its contents. This should be done by means of an elastic catheter, used with very great care, and after sedulous preparation of the case by antiphlogistic measures—for uterine flexion is generally complicated by chronic uterine inflammation.

There is scarcely a page of the handbook that does not present food for remark, in the vast majority of cases of a commendatory character. We hail it as a most valuable addition to the literature of a class of diseases, the pathology and the therapeutics of which are still subjects of controversy.

D. F. C.